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It is safe to say that the law of variation in the diameter of the image of a star with varying times of exposure must be tested for each instrument used, since no two telescopes will ever have exactly the same form of focal image.

A uniformity in the kind of plate used is of course indispensible if a direct comparison is a desideratum.

J. M. SCHAEBERLE.

MT. HAMILTON, July 27, 1891.

## ERRATA IN THE SECOND ARMAGH CATALOGUE OF STARS.

Communicated by Dr. J. L. E. DREYER, Director of the Armagh Observatory.

No. 178, *for* $10^s.61$ *read* $9^s.61$.

No. 770, *for* $9^s.88$ *read* $11^s.34$.

No. 1083, *for* $27^s.25$ *read* $28^s.25$.

No. 1102, *for* $32^s.62$ *read* $33^s.24$.

No. 1138, *dele* seconds of R. A., "Epoch" and "Obs." The star was not observed in R. A.

No. 1138, in N. P. D. *for* 48′ *read* 47′.

No. 1531, in N. P. D. *for* 6′ *read* 5′.

Page 152. No. 1055 is ARG. XXXIII, the P. M. is according to ARGELANDER $-0^s.0141$, $+0''.100$.

Page 158. First column, *for* 1035 *read* 1435.

## FOREST FIRES AT MOUNT HAMILTON, JULY, 1891.

[The following report to the Regents of the University of California may have some interest to others as a part of the history of the Lick Observatory.]

MOUNT HAMILTON, July 29, 1891.

HON. T. G. PHELPS, *Chairman L. O. Committee:*

DEAR SIR,—I beg to submit the following report on the forest fires of July 21 to July 28. I have asked Professor SCHAEBERLE to write this, as he was in charge of the Observatory for most of the time—but he prefers that I should give you this account.

The Observatory is at the summit of a rocky peak called Mt. Hamilton. Just north of it is a deep wide thickly wooded cañon—*Cañon Negro*—and the mountain *Galileo* is on the other side of this cañon, about 4500 feet distant. The whole object was to keep the fire from reaching the chapparal in this cañon. It could enter in two ways; either by passing down the cañon north of *Galileo* (in which the *Joaquin Spring* is situated) and down the cañon of